



Elect
Harry L. WHEELER
Mayor

P R E S S R E L E A S E

For release: Sunday, January 4, 1970

Newark, New Jersey-----Harry L. Wheeler, former Newark school teacher and principal negotiator for the community in the now historic medical school (New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry, city of Newark, state of New Jersey, Departments of H.E.W. and H.U.D. versus the local Black and Puerto Rican community) fight, today formally announced his candidacy for Mayor of the city of Newark in the ensuing May 12, 1970 municipal election.

"At the continuous urgings of my many friends and supporters, I wish to take this opportunity to formally announce my candidacy for the high office of Mayor of the city of Newark.

As a native of the city of Newark, I have 'an abiding, unshakeable faith' in Newark's future. This posture is buttressed by my firm belief that human beings are a community's most valuable resource. Consequently, my initial efforts will be directed at 'dramatically reducing racial polarization' that currently has Newark at the brink of becoming two cities---one Black, one White. A major first step in achieving this goal is to ascertain that demagoguery---White or Black---has no voice, nor place in our community. For Newark's survival and subsequent renaissance is tied inextricably to the

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human process of all elements of the community working together for the common good---the successful rebuilding of Newark, spiritually, morally and physically.

Newark has the basic ingredients-human resources---for its rebirth and only awaits 'visible, dynamic leadership' to chart a broad, new progressive course---free of corruption, administrative ineptness, attitudinal arrogance, callous indifference to basic human needs and rampant provincialism.

It must be conceded that it is highly possible that Newark's most recent tragic events (pervasive official corruption and sweeping indictments of elected and appointed public officials) have shattered any hope for and confidence in the city's ability to survive. However, I strongly feel that the profound human resiliency contained in the moral fabric of the citizenry, coupled with the collective support of all of the major elements of the city, will create an unprecedented atmosphere for positive growth, which will serve as the catalyst for the development of a sound, vigorous revitalization program that will produce a complete and successful rebirth of our city.

The 'social and fiscal' ills of Newark are monumental.

The 'spiraling, confiscatory' tax rate has the city at the brink financial disaster---Approximately one-third (1/3) of the city's supply of homes are substandard and its poor, Blacks and Puerto Ricans, inhabit these homes---The Newark School System is in an unchecked downward spiral that must be reversed immediately, if our young people are to have any chance for success in the

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nation's marketplace---The unemployment rate among Blacks, particularly in the seventeen (17) to twenty-five (25) age bracket, is tragic. It represents one of the major causes for human unrest that continues to plague our city.

To rid Newark of its 'social and fiscal' ills and also infuse new life, commitment and dedication, I propose a progressively sound and viable program--- a blueprint for the successful rebirth of our city.

1. Under sound, progressive leadership, organize the collective talents of all elements of our city and chart a broad, new course of action designed to rebuild Newark---spiritually, morally and physically.

2. Develop a tax program that will provide immediate relief for our tax-burdened homeowners.

3. Wage a citizen's war against organized crime for decency, justice and safe streets for our women and children.

4. Create a dynamic 'economic development program', which will assure Blacks of their rightful place in the economic mainstream of our city, state and nation.

5. Establish a viable police-community relations program that will have as its primary goal 'a mutuality of respect between the protector and the protected'.

6. Establish a program of home ownership for the hard-core poor.

7. Develop a master plan for the construction of moderate income housing under local community sponsorship.

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8. Ascertain that all urban renewal projects reflect the 'planning with people concept', so that the citizens of the target area are involved in the planning and program development.

9. Completely reorganize---within the framework of the New Jersey statutes---the Newark Board of Education and New School System.

10. Establish a city-wide program of community controlled schools."